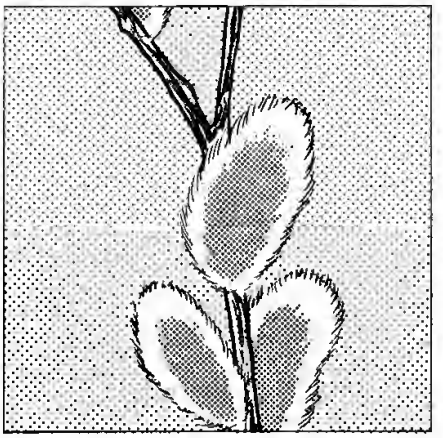
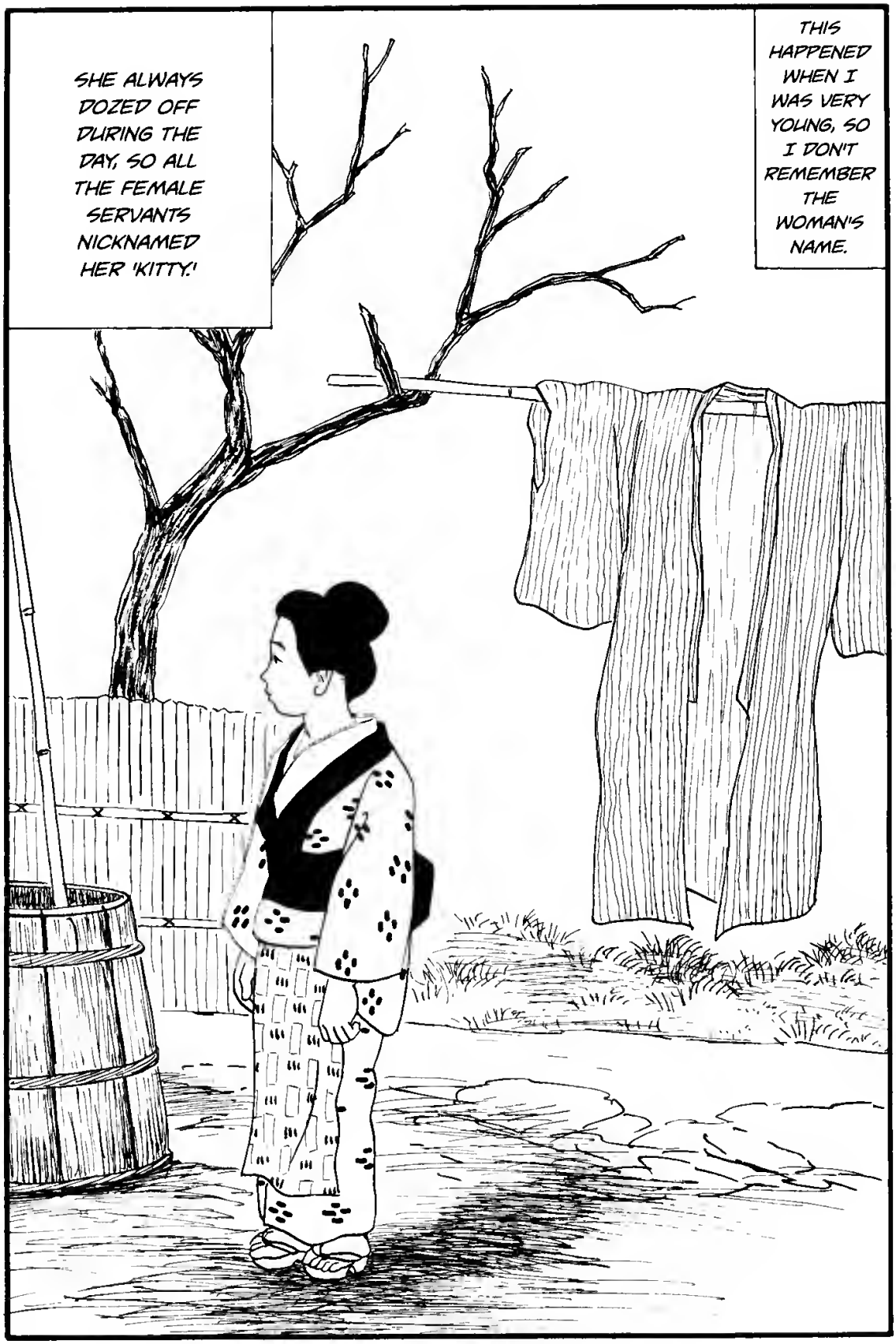
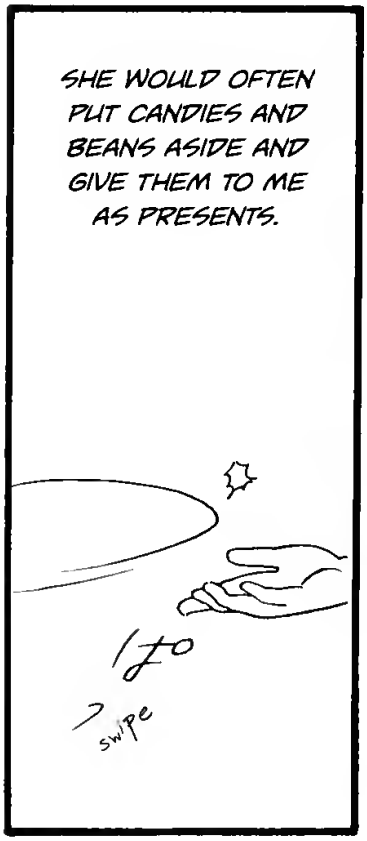
Tale
37

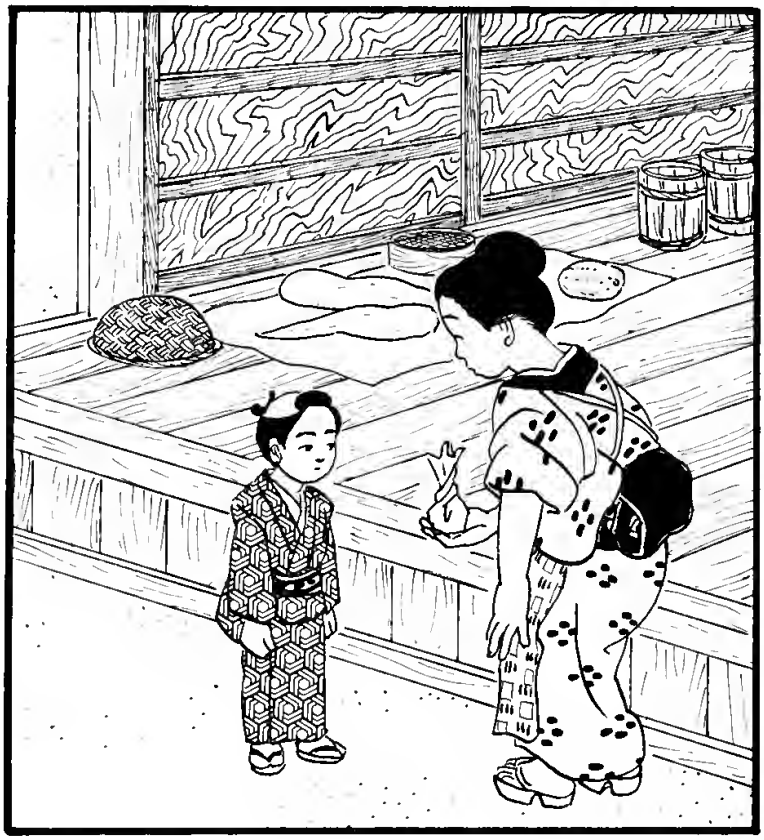
The Head that Fell Off




SHE ALWAYS DOZED OFF DURING THE DAY, SO ALL THE FEMALE SERVANTS NICKNAMED HER 'KITTY.'
THIS HAPPENED WHEN I WAS VERY YOUNG, SO I DON'T REMEMBER THE WOMAN'S NAME.

KITTY WASN'T VERY BRIGHT,
AND WHENEVER SHE GOT YELLED AT, SHE WOULD GO HIDE IN A CORNER OR BEHIND THE FATSIA SHRUBS AND CRY.


SHE WOULD OFTEN PUT CANDIES AND BEANS ASIDE AND GIVE THEM TO ME AS PRESENTS.
Ito
swipe



ON ONE SPRING DAY, I SAW THAT KITTY HAD FALLEN ASLEEP ONCE AGAIN, THIS TIME WHILE SEWING SOMETHING ON HER LAP.

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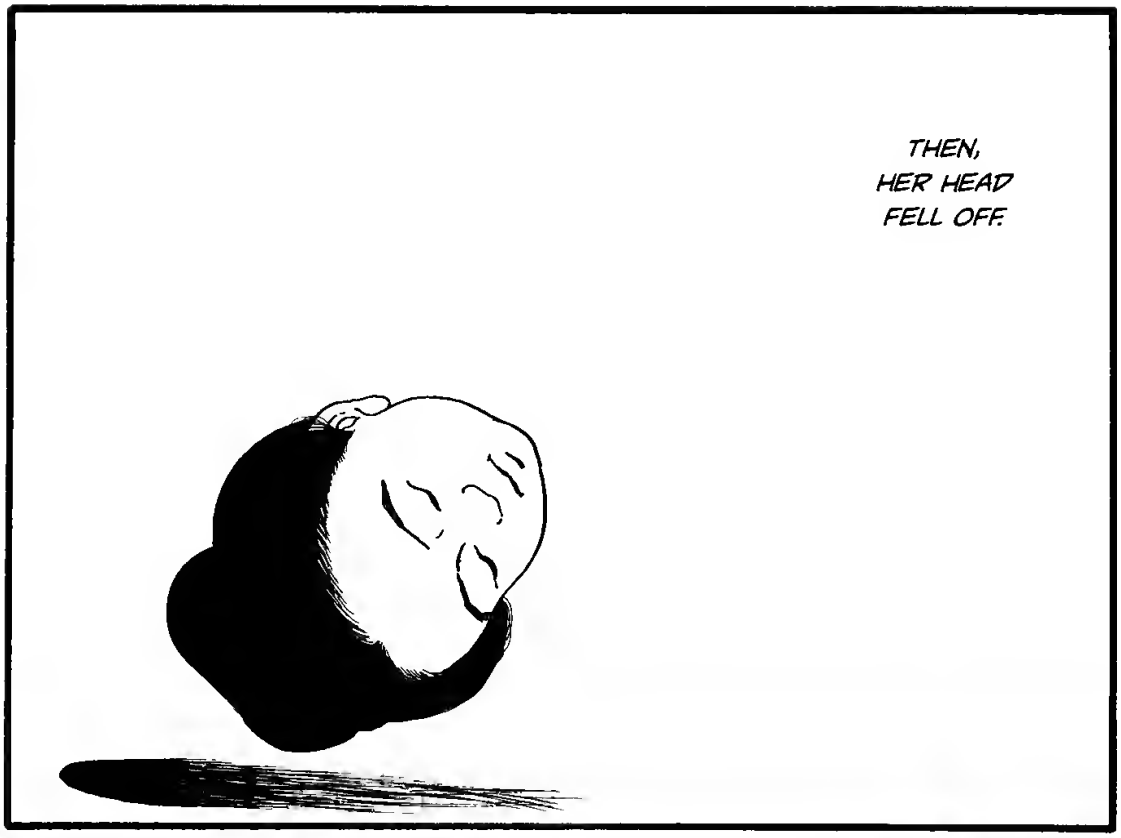
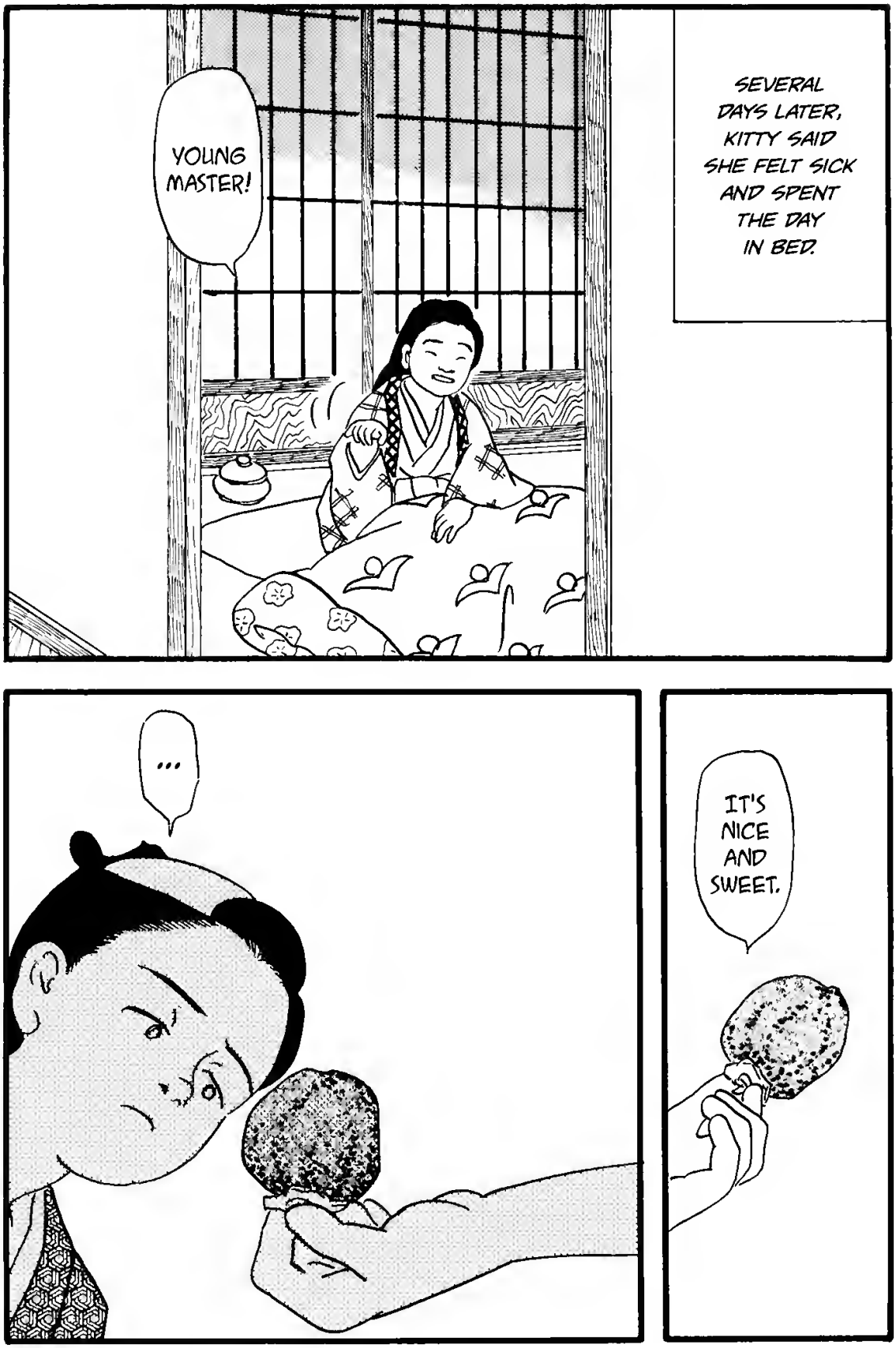
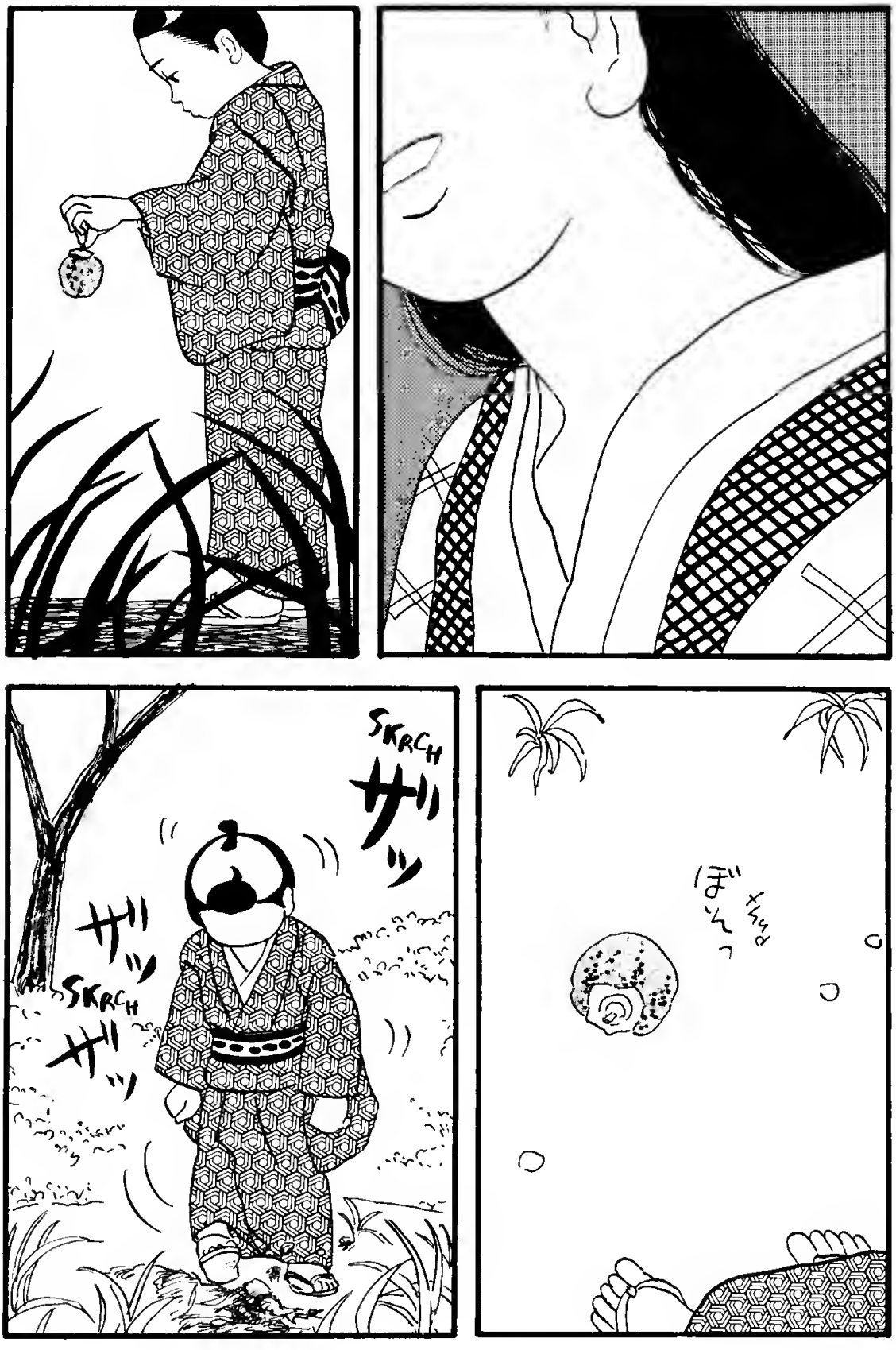
munch munch

I DECIDED TO PLAY A TRICK ON HER, AND PUSHED HER FROM BEHIND.


THEN, HER HEAD FELL OFF.

HER EYES OPENED AND STARED AT ME.
I RAN AWAY AS FAST AS MY FEET WOULD CARRY ME.


YOUNG MASTER!
SEVERAL DAYS LATER, KITTY SAID SHE FELT SICK AND SPENT THE DAY IN BED.
...
IT'S NICE AND SWEET.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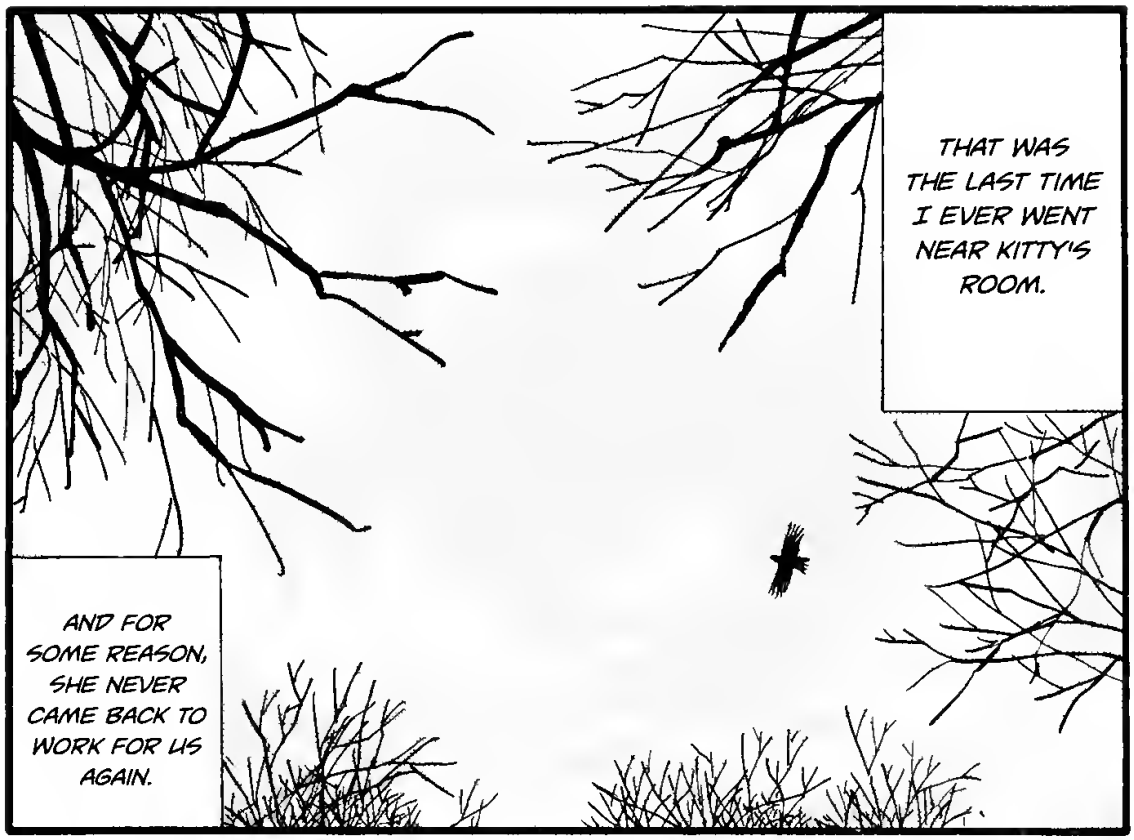
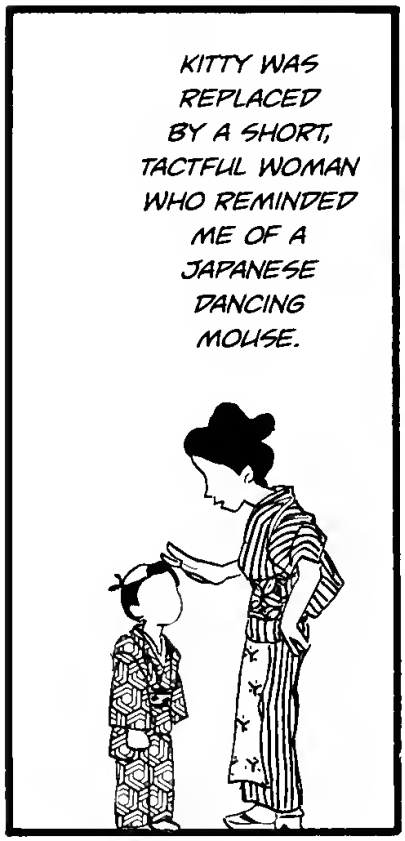

THAT WAS THE LAST TIME I EVER WENT NEAR KITTY'S ROOM.
AND FOR SOME REASON, SHE NEVER CAME BACK TO WORK FOR US AGAIN.


KITTY WAS REPLACED BY A SHORT, TACTFUL WOMAN WHO REMINDED ME OF A JAPANESE DANCING MOUSE.

MY MOM SAID:
SHE WAS SICK, SO WE SENT HER HOME.
WHEN I ASK-ED HER.